(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Hazardous effect of GM food

*10. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a group of Scientists and agriculture experts have cautioned against introduction of genetically modified (GM) food crops, especially BT Brinjal in the country;

(b) if so, whether such GM food stuffs may cause allergies and unknown health problems;

(c) if so, whether several developed countries have either banned or restricted the entry of GM foods; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to restrict the entry of GM foods in the country?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The Department of Agricultural Research and Education has not received any report from a group of scientists and agricultural experts cautioning against introduction of genetically modified (GM) food crops specially Bt Brinjal in the country.

(b) As per the biosafety data conducted so far, no allergies and unknown health problems by GM food stuffs has been reported.

(c) The Department of Agricultural Research and Education does not have any information.

(d) There is no proposal to restrict the entry from GM food in the country.

Third berth near window in train coaches

†*11.SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry had decided to add a third berth near the window of a railway compartment in order to increase its income;

(b) if so, the total number of coaches where a third berth has been added under the said scheme so far;

(c) to what extent the same has added to the income of Railway Department so far; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that now it is being proposed to discontinue this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) With the prime objective of enhancing the passenger carrying capacity in our trains, provision of a third (middle) berth was thought to be made in Sleeper Class and AC 3 Tier coaches running in mail/express services and also in AC 3 Tier coaches of Garib Rath trains.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.